

# Requirements For The Establishment Of The Department Of Central Asian Archaeology

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**Abstract:** This scientific article is devoted to the analysis of the history of the development of archaeology in Central Asia and its modern state. The article also deeply studies the need for the establishment of a department of archaeology in Central Asia and its role in scientific and research activities. It is emphasized that the establishment of a department of archaeology in Central Asia, due to the rich historical and cultural heritage of the region, as well as its place in the global archaeological community, is of not only scientific, but also cultural and educational importance. The article makes proposals for the development of scientific research and educational programs that can be conducted through this new department.

**Keywords:** Central Asia, archaeology, scientific research, department of archaeology, cultural heritage, educational programs, global archaeological community.

**Introduction.** The Department of Archaeology of the Faculty of History of the National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek is recognized as one of the leading archaeological scientific schools known not only in Uzbekistan, but also throughout Central Asia. The contribution of the founder of the Department of Archaeology of Central Asia, Doctor of Archaeological Sciences (1936), Honored Scientist of Uzbekistan (1944), Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor (1949), Honored Scientist of Turkmenistan (1950), Full Academician of the Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan (1951) Mikhail Yevgenyevich Masson to the formation and achievement of scientific progress of this specialized scientific school is incomparable. From 1939 to 1968, Masson served as the head of the Department of Archaeology at the Central Asian State University (now Tashkent State University). At a time when the most prestigious departments of archaeology of the time existed only at Moscow, Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) and Kiev universities, he headed the only department of archaeology in the region. The initial staff included the head of the department, Doctor of Archaeological Sciences, Professor M.E. Masson, senior laboratory assistant T.G. Obolduyeva, and laboratory assistant K.I. Masson[1].

**Analysis of the literature on the topic.** Founded by M. E. Masson and the first specialized school of archaeology in Central Asia, it was formed through an analysis of the large-scale political changes that took place in Uzbekistan, including the entire territory of Central Asia, in the late 19th and early 21st centuries. During this period, three different political systems prevailed, each of which had its own impact on the cultural heritage[2].

**1. The period of the colonial rule of the Russian Empire (1867 - 1917):** During this period, the territory of Uzbekistan was included in the scientific and cultural policy of the Russian Empire as part of its territory. During that period, a number of studies were carried out by Russian scientists in the field of archaeology. However, these studies often served the interests of the colonialists and paid little attention to the culture and history of the local population.

**2. The period of Soviet rule (1917–1991):** During the Soviet period, the development of archaeological science was supported by the state. During this period, Central Asian archaeology was reshaped within the framework of Soviet ideology, with particular attention paid to the revision of national history and culture. Soviet archaeology was often based on class struggle and materialistic historical concepts, which required new approaches to the assessment of cultural heritage.

**3. The period of independence (post-1991):** With the formation of independent Uzbekistan, a new stage in the study of national cultural heritage began. During this period, Uzbekistan is trying to re-evaluate its history and culture, including the restoration and popularization of historical and cultural treasures that have been forgotten or neglected.

During the period of the Department of Archaeology within the Faculty of History of the Central Asian State University, a number of prominent scientists and specialists contributed to providing students with

knowledge and skills in their fields. In particular, such scientists as Doctor of Geography N.G. Mallitsy (courses on geography and ethnography of Central Asia), Doctor of Biology L.V. Oshanin (on anthropology and anthropogenesis), Doctor of History A.A. Semenov (Oriental Studies), Doctor of History I.P. Petrushevsky (Islamic Studies), S.N. Zamyatin (course on general archaeology and field archaeology methodologies), Honored Scientist Prof. V.P. Smirnov (geology of Quaternary deposits) taught at this department[3].

Subsequent deans of the Faculty of History, including I.K. Dodonov, D.I. Laboshov, X.A. Yerzin, L.V. Gentshki and A.Kh. Khamrayev, created the necessary conditions and opportunities for the activities of the department. These scientists and leaders played an important role in enriching and developing the scientific and educational activities of the department. Their contribution was of great importance not only in improving the educational process, but also in shaping the scientific thinking of students and young people[4].

**Analysis and results.** Among the founders of the first specialized archaeological school in Central Asia, not only M.E. Masson, but also all the members of the department team made a significant contribution. For many years, they conducted joint scientific research and, at the same time, attracted students interested in archaeology. On April 5, 1940, the first meeting of the Student Scientific and Archaeological Circle (SNAK) was held[5]. At this meeting, young researchers learned new methods and knowledge not only in the auditorium and lectures, but also in field expeditions. During the activities of the department, special attention was paid to the principle of setting a personal example in the upbringing of young talents.

The main goal of the department was to train highly qualified archaeologists capable of conducting independent archaeological research, conducting in-depth analysis of sources, and preparing them for the post-doctoral program. In this regard, the department never set itself the goal of preparing a candidate dissertation alone, but paid great attention to developing the scientific potential of students.[6] Through this approach, the department created an environment conducive to the acquisition of not only scientific knowledge, but also practical skills and high ethical standards.

The Department of Central Asian Archaeology, under the leadership of M.E. Masson, has been operating for 27 years and has trained outstanding archaeological specialists not only in Uzbekistan, but also in countries such as Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and the North Caucasus. The graduates of this scientific school have carried out important work in shedding light on the past of the peoples of Central Asia[7].

A significant part of the archaeological work carried out in the territories of the Republic of Tajikistan was carried out with the contribution of specialists from this department. For example, the discovery of ancient agricultural settlements in various regions of Kazakhstan, including in the Zhambyl district, and the many years of research around the Chordara reservoir were carried out thanks to the work of M.S. Mershiyev[8]. Also, the work of Kh. Alpisybayev, who participated in the UTAK research of the department, made a great contribution to the discovery of interesting and previously undiscovered monuments, especially of the Stone Age[9].

Through these scientific activities, the department, led by Masson, has made a significant contribution to the development of archaeology not only in Uzbekistan but also in the entire Central Asian region, and is a major source of archaeological research and scientific knowledge in this region. The activities of the department and its achievements are of great importance for a deeper understanding and study of the history of these regions.

Archaeological expeditions conducted by students of the Department of Central Asian Archaeology in the territories of the Kyrgyz Republic are aimed at in-depth study of medieval settlements, especially in the northern and southern regions. Between 1974 and 1977, the relief of about 20 historical settlements in the flood zone of the Tokhtagul reservoir, located in the Ketmen-Tube valley of the Tien Shan mountains, was studied by Y.Z. Zourova. In 1978, archaeological excavations were continued at historical settlements in the middle of the Chu valley[10].

Also, during the many years of research by P.N. Kozhemyakov, the historical geography and archaeological topography of cities in the Talas, Tien Shan, and Chui valleys were studied. V.D. Goryacheva and P.P. Gavryushenko also played an important role in archaeological excavations[11].

In the Republic of Turkmenistan, the South Turkmenistan Archaeological Complex Expedition, organized in 1946 under the leadership of M.Y. Masson, has achieved many successes. It is important to note

that this expedition has achieved great success in discovering ancient archaeological monuments during the archaeological excavations carried out over the years in the ruins of the cities of Nisa and Old Merv.

The Central Asian School of Archaeology has produced many prominent scholars, some of whom are recognized as world-renowned academics. Among them are B.A. Litvinsky, V.M. Masson, V.I. Sarianidi, Y.F. Buryakov, E.V. Rtveladze, and A.S. Sagdullaev. These scholars have made a significant contribution to the study of the history and culture of Central Asia.

The Department of Central Asian Archaeology was part of the Faculty of History of the National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek, where courses in history and archaeology were taught. Among the prominent students of the department are such scientists as G.E. Afanasev, E.A. Davidovich, A.A. Kudryavtsev, V.N. Pilipko, R.H. Sulaymonov, V.A. Bulatova, N.I. Krashennikova, M.I. Filanovich, M.N. Fedorov, D.A. Alimova, Sh.R. Pidaev, T.K. Mkrtichev. Of particular note are scientists such as S.B. Lunin and Z.I. Usmanova, who, as heads of the department, led archaeological expeditions and taught students for many years[12].

Graduates of the department possess not only archeology, but also general historical knowledge, which has helped them develop other areas of historical science. Currently, graduates of the department work at the National Center of Archeology of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, the Institute of Art History, the Institute of History, the State Museum of the History of Uzbekistan, as well as universities and regional museums of the republic, carrying out effective work in the fields of scientific research, pedagogical and educational work, and the promotion of historical and cultural heritage. Through these activities, they create an opportunity to understand the history of Central Asia more deeply and to bring it to a wider public.

Today, the Department of Archaeology of the Faculty of History of the National University of Uzbekistan is operating effectively under the leadership of Ph.D. F.B. Ochildiyev. The team of the department, as well as professors and teachers, play an important role in solving important urgent issues faced by the history of independent Uzbekistan, in the truthful study and teaching of the history of the Motherland and the world, and in the formation of the spiritual worldview of our people.

Through these activities, the department aims to deepen understanding of the historical heritage of Uzbekistan and convey it to future generations, as well as to demonstrate the historical and cultural wealth of Uzbekistan to the world community. The department team regularly updates historical research, scientific work and teaching methodologies, encouraging students and researchers to use modern archaeological methods and approaches. During its activities, the department has also organized various archaeological expeditions, through which scientific research has been further enriched and expanded.

It is recommended that a number of activities be implemented to further publicize Uzbekistan's rich cultural heritage and its historical significance. In particular, such activities as organizing various archaeological expeditions throughout the republic, producing documentary films based on historical evidence and promoting them to the general public, organizing excursions to archaeological research sites and historical settlements, increasing the number of television and radio broadcasts, and creating programs that demonstrate the true appearance of historical monuments using information technologies are important.

**Conclusions and suggestions.** These events help to form a sense of respect for national values in the minds of the younger generation and strengthen national identity. Also, the effective use of national architectural monuments, the development of tourism and cultural ties around these monuments, provides an opportunity to strengthen the economy of the republic and make our cultural heritage more widely known. These events also play an important role in preserving our national heritage and preserving it for future generations.

The traditions of specialized higher archaeological schools in Uzbekistan need to be developed on a new basis, because today global archaeology makes a significant contribution to the study, promotion, and preservation of historical and cultural heritage, and these processes serve to strengthen the cultural development of the younger generation.

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